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Examples are: ChSl. *sokū* 'Saft,' Lith. *sakai* 'Harz,' Welsh *syb-wydd* 'Föhre,' Corn. *sib-uit* 'abies,' OFrench *sap* 'Tanne' (cf. Walde, *Et. Wb.* 545).—Skt. *pāyatē* 'schwillt, strotzt,' *pāyas* 'Saft, Wasser, Milch,' *pitū-s* 'Saft, Nahrung,' *pītu-dāru* 'eine Fichtenart,' Gk. *πίτυς* 'pine-tree'; Lat. *pīnus* 'pine, fir'; MLG. *vī, fyg, vīhe* 'Sumpf, Teich,' Lat. *pix* 'pitch, tar,' Gk. *πίσσα* 'pitch, tar; fir' (cf. author, *IE. a²: a²i*: *a²u* 46; Walde, *Et. Wb.* 469, 471, 545 with references). Like these are nos. 7 and 8.

7. OHG. *fihta* 'Fichte,' Gk. *πεύκη*, Lith. *puszīs* 'Fichte' presuppose a base **peuk-* 'slime, juice' (perhaps formed as rime-word to **piĥ-* in Lat. *pix*, etc.) from *peu-*, *pū-* in Gk. *πίος* 'beestings,' *πίον* 'pus,' Lat. *pūs*, MHG. *vūm* 'Schaum,' Lith. *putà* 'Schaum,' etc. (cf. *IE. a²: a²i*: *a²u* 46).

8. OHG. *forha* 'Föhre,' ON. *fura*, OE. *furh* 'fir': Gk. *πρώξ* 'drop,' base *perek-* 'sprinkle,' whence the color-names with which *forha* has been compared by others (cf. Zupitza, *Gutturale*, 190 with references).

9. OE. *ragu* 'lichen' may have meant primarily 'net, network, web,' and may therefore be compared with MDu. *raegh* 'Spinnenwebe,' Du. *rag*, OLG. *raginna* 'Haar,' and also with Gk. *ἀράκνς* 'net,' *ἀράχνη* 'spider' from **araksnā*, Lat. *arānea*, etc. (cf. Franck, *Et. Wb.* 768; Walde, *Et. Wb.* 40). For meaning compare NHG. *Flechte* in its different senses.

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THE POSITION OF THE FRENCH ADJECTIVE.

Die Stellung des Adjektivs im Neufrenchischen. Von J. HAAS. *Romanische Forschungen*, vol. xx (1907), pp. 538-559.

Die Stellung des attributiven Adjektivs im Altfranzösischen. Von JOHANNES VON DEN DRIESCH. *Romanische Forschungen*, vol. xix (1906), pp. 641-894.¹

¹ The first 124 pages appeared previously as a Strassburg dissertation (Erlangen, 1905).

When we consider the placing of attributive adjectives in French, we find that those which can stand before the substantive fall into one of the following classes:

1. Certain very common adjectives with an augmentative, diminishing, meliorative or pejorative value (*Grand, haut, bon, beau, petit, mauvais, sot*, etc.).

2. Certain adjectives when they have a meaning similar to that of Class 1 (*Un parfait idiot; une légère distinction*).

3. Adjectives implying by their meaning an emotional attribution (*Noble audace! Un cruel ennemi*).

4. Adjectives which name an inherent or well known quality of the substantive concept (*La blanche neige; le prudent Ulysse*).

5. Pronominal and numeral adjectives.

In the numerous studies devoted to this subject during the past twenty years, a prominent place has been given to the analysis made by Professor Gröber in the first volume of the *Grundriss der romanischen Philologie*,² where he states that the adjective following its substantive "logisch distinguirt," while that preceding "affektisch attribuiert." It is hardly exact to term this Gröber's theory, since at a far earlier date Vinet³ had said: "On pourrait dire en général que l'esprit place l'épithète après le substantif, et que l'âme la place plus volontiers devant."

The statement that an adjective, if placed after, gives a logical distinction, and that, if placed before, it makes an emotional attribution has been more than once cited as if it were in opposition to, and a refutation of Professor Tobler's assertions⁴ on the same subject. Tobler, however, begins his explanation by citing Vinet's remark, and distinctly states that his own words are an interpretation of it. The natural, the logical position for the adjective is after the substantive, for it is the subordinate, the dependent member, marking out a sub-class within the class named by the substantive. When this order occurs, sub-

² First edition, pp. 213-214.

³ Quoted by Tobler in 1869, and by von der Driesch. The passage occurs in vol. II of Vinet's *Chrestomathie française*, of which the first edition appeared at Lausanne in 1829.

⁴ *Zeitschrift für Völkerpsychologie*, vol. VI (1869), p. 169.

stantive and adjective alike are in their natural places, so that there is no pressure or haste to reach the adjective after the naming of the substantive.⁵ This, then, will be the order when the reasoning, the distinguishing faculties predominate. If, on the other hand, the adjective is named before the substantive, reversing the logical order, it indicates that a fanciful, a subjective, an emotional conception is dominant. Since the adjective reaches the hearer first, and before he has the localization furnished by the substantive, he grasps it in its most general meaning, and without special prominence being given to any one element of that meaning at the expense of the rest. If there be any contradiction between the elements which normally are embraced in the adjective concept and those of the substantive concept, it is the substantive which suffers a diminution of some of its normal elements in order to adjust it to the already established adjective concept. Thus, while a *musicien méchant* may be in every sense a musician, a *méchant musicien* is not a musician at all in the full measure of the term. Every adjective must have a substantive to depend on; therefore, once a preceding adjective concept is named, there is a pressure to reach the substantive to which this quality is attributed, and this results in a very close union of adjective and substantive.

Dr. Haas, in the study named at the head of this article, takes the ground that neither Gröber's view nor Tobler's is satisfactory, attempting to establish this by examples cited from modern French authors. His proposed solution consists in a modification of Tobler's assertion that when the substantive is named first the substantive concept presents itself first to the mind, and vice versa. Haas concedes that when the substantive is named first the substantive concept presents itself first, but asserts that when the adjective is named first the adjective concept presents itself to the mind not earlier than but simultaneously with the substantive concept. As the sole test of adjective position, he would have us decide whether the specific case is one in which the adjective concept presents itself simultaneously with or later

than the substantive concept. The practical utility of such an explanation is more than doubtful. As to its accuracy in theory, it does not conflict with Gröber's statement and conflicts only seemingly with Tobler's. As Kalepky has pointed out,⁶ Gröber and Tobler are alike the interpreters of Vinet, Gröber retaining the standpoint of the speaker, while Tobler interprets Vinet in a form that represents the standpoint of the hearer. When the emotional element is dominant in the mind of the speaker, the adjective concept presents itself to him simultaneously with the substantive concept, and the adjective is placed in the non-logical position before the substantive. When the words enter the auditor's ear, the adjective concept, reaching him before he knows what the substantive will be, presents itself to him in its most general meaning, and the substantive concept is heard and grasped only afterward. Thus whether we consider, with Tobler, the adjective concept as antecedent to the substantive concept, or, with Haas, the adjective concept as simultaneous with it, depends on whether we assume the attitude of him who receives or of him who conceives the thought.

The dissertation of Gröber's pupil, Dr. von den Driesch, consists in an application of the logical-emotional principle to Old French prose texts. The prose of the twelfth century consists in translations from the Latin, all of which except the *Livres des Rois* are slavish imitations. The disturbing influence of Latin word position is here so great that much confusion prevails and little or no light is thrown on French adjective position. Thus, quite properly, the monograph is divided into two parts, the twelfth century being treated separately, and subsequently to the thirteenth. Part I, however, covering the thirteenth century, is based on independent French compositions and furnishes much important material. It is to it that attention will be specially directed in this review. The work is done with care and intelligence, and the author clearly demonstrates that the general principles which determined the placing of adjectives were the same in the thirteenth century as now, even though the conception of indi-

⁵ Note that, while with the order adjective-substantive *liaison* is the rule, with the order substantive-adjective *liaison* is not customary.

⁶ *ZRP*h., xxv, 331-339.

vidual cases, and in consequence the place of certain adjectives, varies at different epochs.

Von den Driesch explains all occurrences of adjectives before a substantive as due to their having an emotional value. This he interprets as meaning that they represent, on the part of the speaker, a quantitative estimate of extent or of value. So anxious is he to show the adequacy of this criterion that he even avoids utilizing certain elements, which, if rightly analyzed, in no wise conflict with his theory, and which frequently throw light on adjective position. It is worth while to consider the applicability of his discussion to the classification of antecedent adjectives made at the beginning of this article, a classification which, however, he does not adopt.

CLASSES 1 AND 2 (Certain adjectives with an augmentative, diminishing, meliorative, or pejorative meaning, and other adjectives when they assume a similar meaning). The author's interpretation of "emotional position," by its very form, covers these classes. The question remains why "a quantitative estimate of extent or value on the part of the speaker" is "emotional." He explains (p. 689) that such estimates are subjective or personal, and indicate an attitude toward the concept of approval, respect, sympathy, or admiration, or their opposites. He himself recognizes the difficulty, in many specific instances, of attributing such emotional quality to these adjectives. It is easy to see the emotional character of *petit* in : *Oh ! le cher petit enfant !* but *petit* can hardly have an emotional connotation in : *Si le crayon n'est pas dans le petit tiroir, vous le trouverez dans le grand.* He explains, however (pp. 689, 705), no doubt correctly, that in these classes the frequent emotional position has been generalized, and is thus used in instances where the function of the adjective is clearly distinguishing.

The further question could be raised whether we have a right to assume that such an adjective as *petit* is, or ever was, predominatingly emotional, implying a feeling of affection, condescension, or contempt. Von den Driesch, in answer (p. 689), points out that this class is composed of thoroughly popular and very frequent adjectives, those which belong to the language of all epochs and of all classes, and that their predominant

position before the substantive probably became fixed in the period of ignorance and simplicity when the tendency of the great mass of speakers was to emotional rather than logical distinctions, and when size—bigness or smallness—awakened admiration or fear on the one hand, sympathy or contempt on the other. To this he should have added, perhaps giving the greater weight to it, that these are the adjectives of childhood, with its emotional attitude and its frequent measures of value in terms of size, and that in consequence the tendency to place them in the emotional position is renewed from generation to generation.

CLASS 3 (Adjectives implying by their meaning an emotional attribution). When these adjectives precede the substantive, they fall without discussion into the author's classification. It would not have been amiss to bring out more clearly that they precede or follow according as the speaker is stressing their emotional character or not. The great freedom existing for French in the placing of adjectives which are emotional in meaning constitutes an effective stylistic resource.

CLASS 4 (Adjectives naming an inherent or well known quality of the substantive concept). A quality which is known to belong to a whole class is clearly not named in order that it may serve as a distinguishing mark of a member or members of that class. In *la blanche neige*, the adjective *blanc* is not introduced to distinguish a certain kind of snow from other kinds. In such cases the adjective is used by the speaker because it represents that quality of the substantive which specially impresses him, which affects him emotionally, and which he names because it is thus prominent in his thought.

This rule furnishes the explanation of a number of cases in which the adjective precedes a substantive to which a *de*-phrase or some other modifier is joined, the adjective naming an inherent or well known quality, not of the bare substantive, but of the compound formed of the substantive and its modifier.¹

¹ *Sous la blanche lueur d'un globe électrique*, D. Lesueur, *Fils de l'Amant*, 308.—*Sous le fixe regard de ces faces immobiles*, *ib.*, 385.—*Le même éclat qu'avaient les fragiles roses France, derrière sa tête*, D. Lesueur, *Mme. l'Ambassadrice*, 4.—*La difficile conduite de son tandem occupait ses deux mains*, *ib.*, 10.—*S'attarder aux vains regrets du passé*, A.

Von den Driesch mentions (p. 691), but only in order that he may characterize it as too narrow to serve as a universal solution, the foregoing theory that adjectives precede when they represent an essential or well known quality. He is undoubtedly correct in refusing to accept this as the sole and basal test, but his failure ever to avail himself of so enlightening an explanation indicates a needless anxiety lest it conflict with his principle and also results in the defect noted in the next paragraph.

The special impression made on the speaker by a quality of a substantive may be due to that quality having already been given prominence in connection with the substantive. An adjective naming a quality that has recently been attributed to a concept will, if named again in connection with the same concept, precede or follow according to the impression it made on the speaker when it previously came up. If this impression was strong, the quality is now well known, self-evident, not necessarily for all members of the class represented by the substantive concept, but for the specific member or members to which it has been attributed. In such cases an antecedent adjective might be said to represent a secondarily self-evident quality.⁸ Easiness is not an inherent quality of tasks, but, referring to a task that has been described as not hard to accomplish, the speaker

France, *M. Bergeret*, 32.—*Il fut imprimé dans la docte rue S. Jacques*, *ib.*, 98.—*Les grêles tours de Saint-François*, Bourget, *Emigré*, 3.—*Le populeux boulevard du Montparnasse*, *ib.*, 3.—*Les chastes et naïves délices de cette intimité sans caresses, sans paroles précises*, *ib.*, 17.—*La douce lumière d'automne*, *ib.*, 55.—*Les vérités sociales . . . sont les froides amies de l'âge mûr*, *ib.*, 86, etc.

⁸This is a decidedly frequent cause of the adjective's preceding. The works of any contemporary author will furnish abundant cases. Note, for example, the following among many in Bourget's *Emigré*. In each case the quality named by the adjective is, from what precedes, known to belong to the entity represented by the substantive. *Devant l'évident désespoir du jeune homme*, 24 (the young man has just expressed himself desperately).—*Son originale physionomie*, 60 (Marie's features have just been described).—*Ce sec et dur discours*, 143 (refers to the doctor's analysis of his patient's condition, quoted just before). Examples are hardly needed to show that a quality already mentioned or implied does not necessarily precede the substantive if repeated with it. *Et il signa. Il donna cette dépêche menteuse au guichet*, 157 (the contents of the telegram, just given, clearly evidence its untruthfulness).

can say *cette facile tâche*, since the quality is now inherent for the specific task in question. The possibility that such a previous mention may determine adjective position makes it important in many instances to know the context of the passage in which an adjective occurs. A defect in von den Driesch's dissertation consists in a failure to give a sufficient context in some cases where what precedes is essential to the explanation of the phenomena. Thus certain examples of color adjectives are cited (pp. 719–721) with no attempt to explain the cause in the specific instances of the emotional position. The explanation is, however, nearly always furnished by the context.—*L'empereur Morchufles s'ere venuz . . . et ot tendues ses vermeilles tentes*, Villeh., 241.—*Li cuens . . . se herberja es vermeilles tentes l'empereur Morchuflez*, *ib.*, 245 (*vermeil* is the imperial color and is therefore assumed to be a self-evident mark of the emperor's equipment).—*Morchufles chauga les hueses vermoilles*, *ib.*, 222 (M. was not at this time emperor, and the color was not one of his natural signs).—*Et li empereres toutes voies chevauce armés si ricement comme a lui convenoit; et por sa reconnisanche il ot une cote de vermeil samit*, H. Val., 541 (assumed as self-evident that the imperial color should be chosen).—*Et ot vestu une chape d'escarlade fourree d'un vert cendal . . . et tenoit en sa main une blanche verge; et merveilles sembloit bien pseudomme*, Men. Reims, 320 (part of a description of the pretentious equipment of the imposter who was trying to pass himself off as the Count of Flanders—the *vert* and *blanc* here serve as meliorative adjectives).—*Et n'avoient de quoy faire feu fors que de verde laungne qui ne pooit durer encontre le pleuve*, Froiss., II, 153 (the context as here quoted shows that *vert* is pejorative—on a wet day out doors, greenness is the worst possible quality of firewood). Further examples of an insufficient consideration of the context will be given in another connection.

CLASS 5 (Pronominal and numeral adjectives). Von den Driesch (p. 682) classes the numeral adjectives among the emotional attributions. It is possible to recognize how the ordinal numerals can represent, especially to the child mind, a subjective estimate of rank or importance, but it is more difficult to accept the idea that the cardinals

are a subjective measure. Possibly this is so, for the child looks on the numerals largely as augmentatives or diminutives, and the emotional tendency would be aided by the figurative connotations that so frequently accompany the cardinal numbers.⁹ Yet, after all it is probably better to consider the numerals, as von den Driesch (p. 742) considers the pronominal adjectives, to be independent of the principles that govern adjective position in general. The numerals are, like the pronominal adjectives, pointers and markers.

Some individual points in the dissertation suggest special comment. The author (pp. 723-724) considers it difficult to explain that *moine blanc*, *moine noir*, or *blanc moine*, *noir moine*, as designations of members of religious orders by their dress, stand in the same texts and in similar situations side by side. He suggests that the cases where the adjective precedes may be due to the semi-superfluous character of the word *moine*. As there are only sporadic cases of the omission of the *moine*, and then only when the context suffices to make the meaning perfectly clear, this can hardly be accepted. It is sufficient to consider that these striking colors, with their strong symbolism, could easily cause the emotional to predominate over the distinguishing character of the adjectives.

The rule suggested to von den Driesch by the frequent occurrence of *destre main*, *senestre main*, he thus formulates (p. 893): colorless substantive concepts follow such distinguishing adjectives as would suffice of themselves to express the thought. Such a rule receives but slight substantiation from the other examples to which he applies it. He holds (pp. 687-688) that in *veuve feme*, *veuve dame* the word *veuve* is used adjectively and that *feme*, *dame* are superfluous additions. This is another instance where a closer analysis of the context was needed. *Veuve* is the substantive and *feme*, *dame* are the qualitative appositions, retaining the distinguishing value they possess as indications of rank. The *veuve feme* in Men.

⁹ For example, two and three to indicate small quantities; three as the number marking perfection; four at times to indicate a large number (*Il a de l'esprit comme quatre*), at other times a small number (*Encore quatre mots et j'aurai fini*); seven as the "conjuring number," etc.

Reims, 78, took lodgers; the *veuve feme* of Joinv., 588 and 590, was the Canaanite woman of Matt. xv, 22. I have not controlled the passages in Robert de Clary, but the *veve feme* of 66, 1 evidently indicates a woman of low rank, while the *veve dame* of 16, 17 may be a lady. *Les cinc saiges virges*, Joinv., 840, and *as foles virges*, *ib.*, 841, are explained, according to von den Driesch (p. 718),¹⁰ by the same rule; but the *vierges* had been introduced by Joinville in § 839 as *les cinc saiges, les cinc folles, que vos veez ci devant pointes*, the text at this point containing miniatures representing each group of five. *Sage* and *fou* thus have a secondarily self-evident quality when used again of *vierges*.—In *La royne, qui estrange femme estoit*, Joinv., 74, the adjective does not precede, as von den Driesch (p. 732), suggests, because *femme* is superfluous, but because we have been told in § 72 that the queen was a *femme estrange*.

It is a mistake to say (p. 667) that the adjective is not distinguishing in *vie et joie pardurable*, *la joie pardurable*, *pierres precieuses*. It may even be distinguishing in *Or vuel que vous tuit le jurez sour le cors precieus Nostre Dame*, Men. Reims, 32. *Précieux* is not here expressed for the purpose of giving the emotional attitude of the speaker, but in order to render the oath more solemn by fixing attention on a distinguishing mark of the *corps* called to witness. There is no sufficient occasion to offer these examples as a support for a theory that adjectives in *-able*, *-ible*, *-eux* should be classed with the elatives.

The dissertation of von den Driesch achieves its purpose and constitutes a corroboration of the logical-emotional theory. This does not mean that every example of adjective position in a given period can be explained by the direct application of this principle, nor does it necessarily imply that the same adjective in different periods must, in a corresponding context, have the same position. The tendency toward a logical or toward an emotional view may vary at different epochs or even with different individuals. Generalizations or analogical variations may occur in the placing of adjectives; the position of certain adjectives or of adjectives in certain phrases may

¹⁰ On p. 705, however, they are explained as analogical extensions of *sage*, *fou* before the substantive.

become set and be maintained in spite of a shift in the tendencies of a new epoch; certain rhetorical influences, such as chiasmus, may create minor variations.¹¹ A further element which to-day in some measure disturbs the normal status is the tendency to avoid stereotyped forms and to add color by the unusual. This tendency, which is especially strong as regards the epithet, is manifested in English, with its immovable adjective position, by the use of adjectives in slightly altered meaning; in French there is at least a noticeable inclination on the part of certain writers to shift the adjective to the unexpected position.

The question of the position of the French adjective is no simple matter, and the practical application of the principles which govern it is fraught with difficulties. Fortunately for the foreigner approaching the subject from the standpoint of acquiring a speaking knowledge, many of the niceties are not essential to his purpose, and a set of fairly definite rules, not overwhelmingly difficult of application, can be formulated; but mastery even of these rules is dependent on extensive and careful reading and listening. Furthermore, while the foreign student cannot hope to become a master of style, a better understanding of the causes which determine the placing of adjectives contributes vastly to his appreciation of the beauties of the French language and literature.

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GEO. O. CURME, *A Grammar of the German Language*, designed for a thorough and practical study of the language as spoken and written to-day. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1905.

Curmes Grammatik liefert einen neuen Beweis dafür, in welcher gründlichen Weise an den besten

¹¹ Euphony, once the great explanation offered, plays at best a most insignificant rôle. A feeling for clearness may have influence in those cases where the natural position is liable to cause a confusion that can be avoided by choosing the other, but examples where this is the cause of a shift in position are not frequent.

amerikanischen Universitäten von den Vertretern der Wissenschaft gearbeitet wird. Wir haben es hier mit einer Leistung ersten Ranges zu tun, auf die Amerika stolz sein kann. Curmes Arbeit übertrifft alles, was bis dahin auf diesem Gebiete versucht worden ist, die Arbeiten deutscher Gelehrten, wie Wilmanns, nicht ausgeschlossen. Es ist dieses die erste wirklich erschöpfende Grammatik der deutschen Sprache der Gegenwart und von einem Amerikaner geschrieben.

Und dabei erlaubte der trotz der beinahe 700 Druckseiten immerhin beschränkte Raum dem Verfasser noch nicht, die ganze, fast erdrückende Fülle seines mit Bienenfleiss in 15 Jahren oder mehr gesammelten Materials so zu verwerten, wie er es eigentlich gewünscht hätte, oder das Buch würde noch viel wertvoller geworden sein.

Wir haben es hier nämlich nicht mit einem buchhändlerischen Unternehmen zu tun. Solche Blüten treibt der Idealismus in diesem Lande noch nicht, aber sie werden nicht ausbleiben. Der Verfasser hat aus Liebe zur Sache die Früchte seiner jahrelangen Arbeit auf eigene Kosten drucken lassen.

Über was für ein reiches Material Curme verfügt, das wurde dem Rezensenten so recht klar, als er Curmes Recension der dritten Abteilung von Wilmanns Deutscher Grammatik im *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*, Band 6, Seite 492–507, verfolgte. Der Verehrung für den grossen deutschen Gelehrten wird bereiteter Ausdruck verliehen, aber zwischen den Zeilen kann man auch wieder die bittere Enttäuschung darüber lesen, dass gerade der Mann, der wie kein anderer dazu berufen schien, uns Aufklärung über so manche interessante Erscheinung auf dem Gebiete der modernen deutschen Grammatik zu geben, an vielen Stellen nicht befriedigt und in einigen Fällen uns sogar völlig im Stiche lässt.

An der Hand von Beispielen aus seiner eigenen Sammlung konnte Curme dem grossen Wilmanns beweisen, dass er an vielen Stellen sich geirrt und dass die von ihm gefundenen Resultate und gezogenen Schlüsse den Tatsachen vielfach durchaus nicht entsprechen.

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